

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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HOW I MET THE STEAM MAN OF THE PLAINS

By George H. Cordier

Of course I never met the Steam Man, he existing only in the vivid imagination of Lu Senarins, but I met a very good imitation of him, and I will now detail the circumstances of our meeting. Los Angeles in the year 1885 was a quiet, sleepy town just beginning to take the first steps toward being the wonderful city that it is today. The city of a million and a half, the fourth in the nation and with wealth beyond count, while people from all over the world aiming to make it their homes for the future. Of course the readers of the Round-Up have read of the famous Hollywood. Fifty years ago I often went hunting over the land now covered by that famous location with not a house in sight, and with droves of sheep quietly grazing. There was plenty of small game, rabbits, quail, and pigeons and when I rode home in the evening I generally had a bag full. Los Angeles at this time had a large building called Hazards Pavilion. In this was held flower shows, dog shows, and industrial exhibits of all kinds. At the time of which I write a great industrial exhibition was being held at the Pavilion, and I planned to attend. It was in the evening when I entered the building, and I walked about viewing the different exhibits. Suddenly I heard a whistle and then the old familiar "Chu-Chu" of a steam engine. I at once made myself known to Charley and Frank, and we three had a very fine time while I was there.

FAVORITES OF YESTERDAY MARIE CORELLI

by Hermon Pitcher

On two occasions Gladstone, "England's grand old man," called on Marie Corelli at her home near London, without previous notice, much to her surprise; and while entertaining the veteran statesman at afternoon tea, during which he conversed with her on the subject of her work, she ventured to ask him, in the presence of friends, why he had honored her with a visit.

"Because," said he, "I was curious to see for myself the personality of a young woman who could write so courageously and so well, and in whose work I recognized a power working for good, and eminently calculated to sway the thoughts of the people. It is a wonderful gift you have—and I do not think you will abuse it. There is a magnetism in your pen which will influence many. Take care always to do your best, and never work in a hurry. As a woman, you are pretty and good; as a writer, be brave and true."

After a visit of nearly three hours, in which the conversation touched on a wide range of subjects, his last words to the novelist were: "God bless you, my child. Be brave. You've got a great future before you. Don't lose heart on the way. Good bye."

Lord Tennyson also encouraged her in her work in a personal letter of praise before he died.

There are many, who having but a superficial acquaintance with her work, condemn the force of her realism, and there are countless good, but narrow-minded, people who take objection to

her religious opinions.

Marie Corelli was the daughter of Venetian nobles, and was brought up in London by a famous author and physician. She was thoroughly educated for a musical profession, and the idea of writing never came to her mind. But while still in her teens, a change came over her, which is described in the first part of the "Romance of Two Worlds," which she wrote before her twentieth birthday.

Socially, Miss Corelli was a charming woman to her many friends. Her books were sometimes startling in their themes, often sensational, sometimes a bit questionable, but entirely harmless. It was long the custom of Literary critics, as in the case of Mrs. Holmes' work, to poke fun at her books, and though Miss Corelli may have pretended indifference, she felt the barbs severely enough to be stung into retaliation. Some of her titles are "Thelma," (a romance of the land of the midnight sun, which has been adapted for stage and screen use), "Vendetta," "Wormwood," "The Sorrows of Satan," "Barabbas," and "The Master Christian."

"Probably her readers who range from Gladstone and Edward VII to the servant girls of the British Empire, and of America, have not been much less numerous than those of Kipling. Queen Victoria read her novels with delight. So did Queen Margherita, of Italy, "Carmen Sylvia," the Queen of Roumania, and Elizabeth, Empress of Austria."

"This royal favor denotes nothing as to the artistry of her work," observed the *New York Evening World*, but it signifies the remarkable Catholicity of her appeal. The melo-dramatic qualities, and the weird touch of mystery were enough to have placed her among the best sellers. But her vogue has been due, in a large measure, to the spiritualism which permeates her novels. The Queen in the castle, and the peasant in the cabin are alike in a hunger for impressions of the life beyond. Miss Corelli ministered to this desire to penetrate the veil.

"So while it cannot be said that the lights of literature have gone out, with the passing of Marie Corelli, it will be impossible for the historian who essays to describe the literary taste of her generation to ignore the author of

"The Romance of Two Worlds."

"She was a born story teller. Whether one likes or dislikes the works of Marie Corelli, the necessary verdict on the achievements of her life is that she was a startling success in the field she chose; a great deal more of a success than were most of the people who laughed and sneered at her."

Miss Corelli died in May 1924, at the age of 60 years.

BOOKS HE REMEMBERS

A Jay See Was Greatly Impressed In His Early Youth

Union, Dec. 19

Editor of The Courier-Gazette:

Back in my boyhood days, before I began to really read, two stories or books gained a position in my memory and have never left it. The first was in my very early school days.

One morning our teacher, Miss Mary C. Tyler, I believe, but am not positive, started early in the session to read a chapter from a book, and each morning continued until the book was finished or at least the most interesting parts were.

At that time I did not know the name of the book or its author, but it interested me very much. It was a sea story of a boy "stowed away" on a ship from England, bound for a western South American port. It told of his experiences after ships cargo had been stowed around him while sleeping, so there was but little room to move.

It told of his gaining food and drink by cutting into and through cases and barrels packed snugly around him, of battles with hungry rats and of blinding darkness, and of course his final release.

Only a sea yarn, but to me it was a wonderful story and until perhaps three years ago I never knew even the name of the book. Since that time reading has been one of my favorite recreations, so I have acquired vast numbers of books, mostly second hand, some many years old, from many sources, and generally at extremely moderate prices.

Among one lot which probably cost me no more than five cents each, I came across my boyhood friend. It was and is "The Boy Tar" by Captain Mayne Reid, Although not so thrilling

now, I prize it highly.

The other book entered my life at about the same time. It was a 5-cent novel, the first I remember. My father read it to me a chapter or two at a time, evenings. I thought it the funniest thing that could be written. The name of this story, I have always remembered. It was Tommy Bounce, The Family Mischief by Peter Pad. A Frank Tousey publication.

About a month ago through kindness of a friend, William Burns of Rockland, Maine's foremost authority on dime novels of the past I gained my old favorite comic. A real story of a mischievous but not really a bad boy.

Like the first mentioned book it does not deliver the swift kick as it did when I was about 12 or 13 years of age. Later in life I begun on books by Alger, Optic, Castleman and Henty. I read all kinds yet. The truly good ones are not a majority but are many of course.

A. Jay See.

Sent in by Wm. M. Burns.

A FINE LITTLE ANECDOTE

by L. S. Patterson

In 1913 I lived in Dublin, Georgia. There were no news stands there but a book dealer sold the Street & Smith nickel novels. Also a neighbor subscribed to several and used to give them to the boys after he had read them. We read them rather openly around the house tho our parents did not approve.

One fine spring day two boys in the neighborhood ran away; they left no clue as to where they had gone. Their parents heard from them—they were in Macon, Ga. a city about 60 miles distant. They came home by train a few days later and were met at the depot as conquering heroes by admiring boys.

Our parents decided that the lurid literature of the 5c novels had caused them to run away and the weeklies were thenceforth tabu.

I liked Brave and Bold best of all; Tip Top next and Secret Service. I never cared for Young Wild West or his sweetheart Arietta. I used to wish something would happen so that someone would get the best of that young man, but no one ever did.

GIVE US THE OLD DIME NOVELS

Granddaughter, 7, sucks her thumb constantly as she listens to exciting children's serials on the radio. Please express your opinion of such programs. (W. W. H.)

Answer — Compared to them the dreadful dime novels (which cost 5 cents) of our happy childhood were harmless. There was never a suggestion of sex in any of the "dime novels" I read—and I usually had one hidden inside my geography or under the pillow. Send stamped self-addressed envelope for pamphlet on Thumb Sucking.

—Sent in by E. Marvin Smith

BUFFALO BILL ONCE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Laramie, Wyo.—Col. William F. Cody, more widely known as "Buffalo Bill," was a man of diverse talents but few people realize he also attained prominence as an educator.

Buffalo Bill achieved universal fame as an Indian fighter, a hunter and a Wild West showman. However, from the archives of the University of Wyoming comes the information he was also, at one time, a college president.

—Sent in by Ray E. Swanstrom

MARCH ELEVENTH

Friendship is to be valued for what there is in it, not what can be gotten out of it. To seek friendship for its utility is as futile as to seek the end of a rainbow for its bag of gold. A true friend is always useful in the highest sense; but we should beware of thinking of our friends as brother members of a mutual benefit association, with its periodical demands and threats of suspension for non-payment of dues.—Trumbull

NEWSY NEWS

by Ralph F. Cummings

Herbert J. Antes, now at his father and mothers place has been very sick for the past year or two, and doesn't feel any too good as yet. He and his family sure have had pretty tough luck all around, between sickness, death and fires, they sure have had more than their share.

Remember A. A. L'Ecuyer of Keeseville, N. Y., that was a member of H.

H. Bro. some 6 or 8 years ago, we just heard he died some time last year. God bless him always.

The Gil Patten Memorial plaque has been fixed up properly, and now hangs in the Business Men's Assn. hall at Camden, Maine, where Bro. Patten spent a lot of his time, when not writing. The O has been changed to E in Patten and the hyphen has been taken out from between Tip Top, and a good job done all around. Albert Pahlman contributed \$1.00 towards the Gil Patten fund, but was left out of the list unintentionally, sorry this happened, but mistakes will happen.

Don Learnard of Arlington, Mass., says if any one has any Liberty Boys of 76 to sell, he would be very glad to receive a list, or he will trade. Don says that any one wanting Boys books, The Seven Bookhunters, Station O, Box 22, New York 11, N. Y. will find them sooner or later.

Edward Gantner, of Boonville, Mo., says he hears of some one every so often wanting to buy his deceased brother Joes collection, but that he, Edward intends to keep them himself, as he is interested in them all.

Charles Duprez, of Bellrose, L. I. New York says he tried to read some old favorites of his, Fred Fearnot in Work & Win? Says there's some thing wrong, as they're not as interesting as they used to be, and the things they put in about Fred and Terry and their sweethearts, he says somehow he just can't swallow it now. Fred and his friends always came out on top of the pile every time, and when we were kids, we loved everything, but now we are changed!

It would be nice if we had a WHO'S WHO, in Dime Novels, wouldn't it. What do you fellows think of the idea? Write ye editor Cummings.

John T. McIntyre of Phila., Penna. wants Wide Awake and Comic Libraries.

Joseph Krajic, 1433 Scoville Ave., S. W., Canton, Ohio, is very sick, drop him a nice card of encouragement, fellows.

Harry A. Weill of New York, says the article on Golden Days by Wm. M. Burns, in the Feb. Roundup, was found of deep interest. Though he never perused this publication in his boyhood days, placing it in the same category as the Youth's Companion and Harpers Young People, etc., as being too

sissified and fit for little Rollo and the Sunday School kids. Much preferred the thrillers — Golden Hours, Frank Reade, Nick Carter, Old Cap Collier and others. The red-skin would bite the dust, but to have a single bullet pass through two Indians, and render them both "hors du combat," as it did in a short story by T. C. Harbaugh in Golden Hours, is rather far-fetched and places a strain upon ones credulity.

J. P. Guinon says in the next issue of the "Necromancer" a mimeographed little publication devoted to Science-Fiction, will contain an article on the Frank Reade Library, about 2500 words, with a full page reproduction of No. 75. Frank Reade and his Flying Ice-Ship, or Driven Adrift in the Frozen Sky. It is a feature article and is entitled "The First Science-Fiction Periodical." David MacInnes Pub., 1619 Eastern Ave., Apt. E, Mars Estates, Baltimore 21, Md. Price 10c per copy.

Charles Bragin says Fortune Magazine for Jan. 1948 has a nice write-up on the Dime Novel Club. Anybody who wants copy of same, and copies of other articles on our club can have same free, by sending him a postcard.

Eli A. Messier says there is a fine article on the James Boys in the February issue of Readers Digest.

Robert Conahay Jr. of New York likes Secret Service, so who can help him out?

Pat Burke of New York is in the law business, but likes novels too.

Mrs. F. Hausman of Glendale, L. I., N. Y. likes sea stories, and Mildred Koch likes dolls, and doll material.

Bill Williamson of Winchester, Va., has a lot of books, old mags, etc. for sale, send for lists.

Roscoe B. Martin, Forestville, N. Y. says last Sept. 1947 he spent 5 days at Pittsburgh, Aug. 13th to 18th to a meeting of the American Philatelic Society, its annual meeting. (He was its president, 1933 to 1935). He also went out to Fredonia, and attended a real auction, and picked up a few nice things, then he went to the American Numismatic Society Annual meeting in Buffalo, at the Statler Hotel for 5 days, then started for another auction, but met a stamp collector and his wife, so went home instead. He didn't find any novels or story papers on his travels.

David C. Adams of Los Angeles,

Calif. has been very very sick for a long time, caused from a blow on top of the head, when he was held up by thieves one night, so drop him a few lines pard. Look for all addresses in November 1947 Roundup.

A. Willard Jaffray, Belvidere, Ill., will swap novels for novels.

We've just heard from Mrs. George H. Cordier of Los Angeles, Calif. that her husband died Jan. 7th, after a long illness. Bro. Cordier has written a lot of fine articles for the Roundup in the past, and his last one is in this issue, which he wrote just before his death. Have several others on hand that he has sent me at various times, which will be published in future issues of the Roundup, sorry we couldn't of had them while he was living. A fine member was he, and has been in the H. H. Bro. for over 20 years. We are all going to miss George a big lot. We know his sufferings are all over, and he will forevermore rest in peace. God Bless him always.

Various Magazines ye editor has received up to date. Hobbies, The Spinning Wheel, Collectors Roundup, Hobby Bandwagon, The Story Paper Collector, Linn's Weekly Stamp News, Western Stamp Collector, The Southern Philatelist, The Collectors Miscellany, The Card Collectors Bulletin, The Call of the Calliope, The Collectors Digest, The Collector and Hobblist, Lone Indian, The Red River Rambler, Want List, The United, Book Merchandising, The Pony Express Courier, Chambers Stamp Journal, Fantasy Advertiser, The Kaw, Tom Tom.

Ye editor Cummings wants any number of these novels—Beadles Frontier Series #6. Deadwood Dick Library #1, 2, 18, 21, 23, 24, 30.

C. H. Greiner, 106 N. Sunset, Temple City, Calif. says he'll pay good prices for stamps that came out west of the Mississippi before 1890. Whatcha got, feller's?

E. Dudley Evans is having one heck of a time, for he has been laid up first one hospital, and the other, for about 2 years now. He is now at the "Crystal Lake Convalescent Home," R.F.D., West Peabody, Mass. Drop him a few lines of cheer pards.

Ernest Metler, Box 586, Closter, N. J., says he has completed his file of Merriwell Series, good for you, Pal. He also wants some single nos. of Golden Days, Golden Hours and Happy Days.

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PARTIAL LIST OF MEMBERS FOR 1948 of H. H. BRO.

- 35. John T. McIntyre, 214 So. 42nd St., Phila. 4, Pa.
- 68. George Sahr, 7025 31st Ave., Kenosha, Wisc.
- 93. Dr. F. J. Scully, 904 Med. Arts Bldg., Hot Springs, Ark.
- 112. Bill (Wm.) Erbe, 403 W. 35th St., New York City, N. Y.
- 113. J. H. Ambruster, 1458 Pensacola Ave., Chicago 13, Ill.
- 131. Harry A. Weill, 80 Fort Washington Ave., Apt. 26, New York 32, N. Y.
- 167. Richard E. Stolt, 2048 W. Hutchinson St., Chicago 18, Ill.
- 186. Glenn Garrison, R. R. 1, Worthington, Ind.

New Members

- 210. W. B. Poage, 505 So. Newport Ave., Tampa 6, Fla.
- 211. F. F. Johnson, 1485 So. Second St., E., Salt Lake City 4, Utah.
- 212. L. S. Patterson, 643 So. Hill St., Griffin, Ga.

New Addresses

- 72. Eli A. Messier, P. O. Box 1122, Woonsocket, R. I.
- 49. Charles F. Heartman, The Book Farm, The Southern Library Service, 421 So. Sequin Ave., New Braunfels, Texas.
- 153. Herbert J. Antes, Goodman, Mo.

W A N T E D

Popular Magazine—Anything prior to May 1906 and November and December 1906. Anything 1907 except February; Anything 1908 except November; The February, March, May, June and July 1909 numbers; January 15 and April 1, 1910; March 15, 1911; January 1, 1912; November 1, 1915; January 15 and November 1, 1915; January 15, November 1 and 15, 1916; June 1, 1917; October 7, 1918, anything 1925 except February and October numbers.

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Golden Days. Vol. 4. 6 Nos. Vol. 6. 11 Nos. 20c each, or \$3.00 for the lot.

St. Nicholas, several hundred old numbers at 7c each.

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Beadles Frontier Series. Pub. by M. J. Ivers, fine #70-75-79-80. 30c each.

Ballou's Pictorial. Bd. Vol. 10. No. 1, Jan. 5th 1856 to Vol. II No. 26, Dec. 27, 1856 extra good condition. Price \$10.00. Vol. 6 and 7 of 1854 Bd. extra good \$10.00. Both for \$15.00.

Gleason Pictorial. Bd. vol. 6 No. 1 Jan 7th 1854 to Vol. 7, No. 26, Dec. 30, 1854. Fair, \$4.00.

The Waverley Mag. Bd. Vol. 15 and 16, 1857. Some fine stories in here such as The Little Captive of the White Mountains, Plot and Couaterplot, The Boy Commodore, The Soldiers Bride or the Tale of Old London Bridge, Fiend of the Merrimac, or Early Days in Massachusetts and many other fine tales. Fair, bindings cracked. Price \$4.00.

Frank Leslies Illustrated Newspaper, Bd. Feb. 16, 1889 to Aug. 3rd. Good. Price \$4.00. Also Aug. 20th 1887 to Feb. 11th 1888. Has fine 4 or 5 page article on the "Central and Northern California and Southern Oregon, Completion of the Railroad between San Francisco and Portland, also other fine things too, price \$6.00. Bd. Fine. Aug. 16, 1890 to Jan. 31st 1891. Bd. Fine \$6.00. Feb. 7, 1891 to Aug. 1st 1891. Bd. Fine \$6.00. Lots of fine stuff in these vols., or all 3 bd. vols. for \$40.00.

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